

CAPTAIN WILLIAM RAMSEY, U. S. N.

COMMUNICATION

FROM

CAPTAIN WILLIAM RAMSEY, U. S. N.,

RELATIVE TO

The memorial of Lucien Clavadetscher.

JUNE 19, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,

Speaker of the House of Representatives U. S. :

SIR: My attention has been called to the report of the proceedings of the House of Representatives as published in the National Intelligencer of the 13th inst., in which I perceive there was presented to the House a petition of one Lucien Clavadetscher, charging me with fraudulent conduct, and the use of my public position to cheat private citizens, in not paying a claim set up against me by the petitioner's wife.

I have had as yet, sir, no opportunity to see the petition of Lucien Clavadetscher, but presume it is based upon a claim having neither legal nor equitable foundation, set up against me some years since by the petitioner's wife, formerly a Mrs. Bihler of this city, and which she has attempted, by various unusual and extraordinary methods, to coerce me to pay. After having in vain endeavored, by threats and violent personal abuse in the public streets, to extort the amount of this pretence of a claim from me, which I now, as at all times, most emphatically deny, this Mrs. Bihler, (or Clavadetscher,) some time in the year 1844, sought, by preferring a complaint to the Navy Department, of a like character, I presume, to that embodied in her husband's petition to the House of Representatives, the interference in her behalf of the then (as now) Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Mason, after an examination into the subject matter of her complaint against me, and the rejection, on her part, of an offer made by me to submit her claim to the test of an action at law, or to the arbitrament of such person or persons as she might herself select, and to pay any sum which might in either way be awarded her, upon evidence to be adduced by her alone, dismissed her case.

Unsuccessful in her attempts, by abuse of me to the government and to members of Congress for now near five years, or through the in-

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strumentality of the Navy Department, to coerce me into the payment of a pretended claim, which, if just and legal, might have been enforced in the usual manner, she has, as a last resort, and to carry into effect an often repeated threat "*to abuse me into paying it*," procured to be presented the petition of her husband.

As no other means of repelling the outrage and abuse, which I am informed is contained in this man's petition, are open to me, may I be permitted, sir, to present this paper, with the accompanying letter on the subject from the Secretary of the Navy, through you to the House, and ask its reference to the committee to which the petition of Clavadetscher has been referred; and if the committee shall deem this matter within its jurisdiction, I shall be most obedient to their call.

I have the honor to be, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM RAMSEY.

WASHINGTON CITY, June 16, 1848.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, November 26, 1844.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 20th instant, in relation to the complaint of Mrs. Bihler against you.

Mrs. Bihler has been informed that the department cannot, under the circumstances, take any further steps in the business.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Y. MASON.

Captain WILLIAM RAMSEY,
 U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C.